



CHAIRMAN

Federal Communications Commission

Washington, D.C.

February 11, 2002

Dr. David D. Clark
Chair, Computer Science and
Telecommunications Board
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW - HA 560
Washington, DC 20418

Dear Dr. Clark:

I wanted to commend and congratulate you, Dr. Nikil Jayant and the Committee on Broadband Last Mile Technology and its staff for your outstanding contribution to the national broadband discussion. I recommend that anyone that has a stake in this discussion read your recently released report, *Broadband: Bringing Home the Bits*.

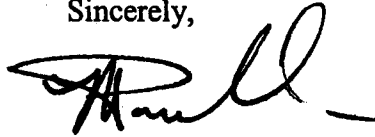
It should come as no surprise that the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, the author of *The Internet's Coming of Age*, would engage in a study and report on the next generation of Internet access services. The depth and scope of the report, from the characteristics of broadband characteristics to its applications and content, its economic realities, the technology, and the structure of its regulatory and policy framework, is as comprehensive a look at broadband as I have seen.

I am encouraged by the findings and recommendations of your two-year study on broadband deployment and consumer demand. Substantial investment and innovation are needed to build the broadband-capable networks that will support the applications of the future. As I have stated, governments should foster this investment and innovation by providing for regulatory certainty and limiting unnecessary regulatory costs.

I also pledge that the Commission will carefully consider your recommendations in our broadband policy-making. Indeed, some of your recommendations serve as the backbone of the Commission's broadband policy. For example, the Commission's primary broadband policy objective is to prioritize the widespread deployment and availability of broadband service to all Americans. Furthermore, I agree with your conclusions that a regulatory regime that defers new or existing regulations to broadband in its early stages, that promotes facilities-based competition and encourages new entrants is the best way to achieve that widespread deployment. In addition, consistent with your recommendations, the Commission will redouble its efforts to monitor the deployment of, and investment in, broadband-capable infrastructure and will also engage in efforts to promote increased deployment at the local level.

Again, I congratulate you on completing your report, which will prove an important contribution to developing a sound policy framework for broadband deployment and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Powell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael K. Powell